

Application No. 09/768,550  
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

RE: THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the sub-frame is connected with the lower frame at only three connection points, whereby connection of the sub-frame to the main frame by the three connection points absorbs effects of distortion of the installation surface so as not to transfer the effects of the distortion of the installation surface from the lower frame to the sub-frame.

In addition, claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements and to correct some minor antecedent basis problems so as to put the claims in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent. The informality pointed out by the Examiner has been corrected.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

RE: THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1, 2, 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 4,723,857 ("Yokoi") and

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the admitted prior art, and claims 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Yokoi, the admitted prior art and USP 5,870,659 ("Maruyama et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, a printer device is provided which comprises an image holding body; writing means for writing an image onto the image holding body in accordance with an image signal; image formation means for adhering a pigment to the image which is written onto the image holding body; and paper conveyer means for conveying a paper to a transcription position where the pigment adhered onto the image holding body is transcribed onto the paper; and a framework including a plurality of connected framing members.

As recited in amended independent claim 1, the framing members comprise a lower frame which is arranged in a lower section of the printer device adjacent to an installation surface on which the printer device rests, and a sub-frame which supports the image holding body and the writing means.

And as recited in amended independent claim 1, the sub-frame is connected with the lower frame at only three connection points, whereby connection of the sub-frame to the main frame by the three connection points absorbs effects of distortion of the installation surface so as not to transfer the effects of the

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distortion of the installation surface from the lower frame to the sub-frame.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 2, moreover, the framework is formed in an approximately rectangular shape; and the three connection points consist of only two connection points on a predetermined side of the rectangular shape, and only one point on a side of the rectangular shape facing the predetermined side of the rectangular shape. (See Fig. 6.)

It is respectfully submitted that Yokoi clearly does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1 whereby the sub-frame is connected with the lower frame at only three connection points.

Indeed, on page 3 of the Office Action the Examiner acknowledges that Yokoi discloses four connection points between the main frame 10 and subframe 20. And the Examiner also acknowledges that Yokoi would not be applicable against a recitation of "only three connection points" at the bottom of page 3 of the Office Action.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that Yokoi discloses a relatively lightweight printer. According to Yokoi, the four connection points include a pair of rear mounting portions 21, which include projections 56 fitted into holes 57, and a pair of

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front mounting portions 22, which include bolts 60 inserted in mounting holes 59. To prevent vibrations caused during printing from being transmitted from the subframe 20 to the main frame 10 and causing noise, vibration proof rubber members are provided between the main frame 10 and subframe 20 at the mounting portions. Thus, according to Yokoi the transmission of vibration is prevented by way of rubber vibration proof members.

By contrast, the printer device of the claimed present invention is a relatively heavy printer, and the structure of the connection of the main frame and sub-frame by the only three connection points is provided to prevent effects caused by distortion of the installation surface from being transferred from the lower frame to the upper frame.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that Yokoi clearly prevents distortion in a different manner from the claimed present invention, and clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest only three connection points between the main frame and subframe thereof.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Yokoi does not disclose, teach or even remotely suggest the feature of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1 whereby the sub-frame is connected with the lower frame at only three connection points, such that the connection of the sub-frame to the main frame by the three connection points absorbs

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effects of distortion of the installation surface so as not to transfer the effects of the distortion of the installation surface from the lower frame to the sub-frame.

Maruyama et al, moreover, has merely been cited for the disclosure of a tandem-type image formation apparatus.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-6 depending therefrom, all clearly patentably distinguish over Yokoi, Maruyama et al and the admitted prior art described in the specification, taken in any combination under 35 USC 103.

\* \* \* \* \*

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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